

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the  
BOROUGH OF SAINT IVES (Hunts.)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER, 1947

---

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Saint Ives (Hunts.)

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present to you this report  
on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough.*

*I am,*

*Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

W. R. GROVE

*Medical Officer of Health*



# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

W. R. GROVE, M.D., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

G. G. YEANDLE, *Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£17,563
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£68
Number of Inhabited houses (approx.)					932
Population middle 1947	...	...	...	...	3292

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS		M	F	
(legitimate)	52	29	23	Birth-rate per 1000
(illegitimate)	6	3	3	of the estimated
	—	—	—	resident population 17·8
Total	58	32	26	
	—	—	—	

STILL BIRTHS				
(legitimate)	0	0	0	Rate per 1000
(illegitimate)	0	0	0	population 0
DEATHS Total	28	14	14	Death-rate per 1000
				of the estimated
				resident population 8·5

Deaths from Puerperal causes:—

		Deaths	Rate per 1000 total
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	...	0	(live and still) births
No. 30 other Puerperal causes		0	
		—	
	Total	0	0

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age ... 34·5 per 1000 live births

		M	F	
All infants per 1000 live births	2	2	0	
Legitimate infants per 1000 live births	1	1	0	
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	1	1	0	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	2	
„ „ Measles „ „	...	...	0	
„ „ Whooping cough „ „	...	...	0	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	0	

As a comparison the Birth-rate and Death-rate for England and Wales during 1946 was:

Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	20·5
Death-rate	...	...	...	...	12·0
Deaths under one year per 1000 births was	...	...	...	...	41



## SANITARY CONDITIONS

I (1) WATER.—The supply for the Borough is obtained in bulk from the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board and no shortage was experienced during the year, the pressure, although not so high as in previous years owing to additional heavy demands on the line of supply before reaching the Borough, was satisfactory. The water is treated at source by the Board by chlorination and de-chlorination.

The rainfall for the year was 1·25 inches below the average, which did not affect the few remaining private supplies.

124 samples of water were taken during the year from different points in the area and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, for examination—of these, 117 were satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory, 2 cases were private pump supplies which have been closed and the town supply provided, the others were corrected by flushing.

The total consumption for the year was 34,154,000 gallons which is an increase of 1,124,000 gallons on the previous year.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—No alterations or extensions were carried out during the year but several large sections of the sewers which take the discharge of the major portion of the town were cleansed and repaired where necessary, including the main outfall sewerage dyke.

2 RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Serious flooding occurred in the district during the year owing to the River Great Ouse which flows through the Borough reaching a flood level which was equal to if not higher than ever recorded before. The main cause was the exceptionally heavy snowfalls and quick thaw, in consequence the water in the many streams which discharge into the River Ouse were held up and flooding was not only experienced on the adjoining lands but also in the streets. The River Great Ouse Catchment Board, who are the controlling authority, have been engaged in extensive works to try and combat any future occurrence.



3 (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—No conversions from Pail to Water Closets have been carried out during the year, but where possible all new properties have been connected to the water carriage system.

The collection of night soil was carried out in a satisfactory manner and no complaints were received during the year.

(2) PUBLIC CLEANSING.—The collection of House Refuse remains the same and is carried out under contract. Although the method works satisfactorily the question of dealing with the large accumulation of refuse remains a problem and no doubt next year a considerable tonnage will have to be dumped again on waste land as in the previous year.

The Council still arrange for the collection of saleable salvage and although there is a marked falling off in the receipts of same it is still felt that in view of the fact that the materials, particularly waste paper, are still in urgent demand by the country it is in the interest of the Council to carry on as long as the Ministry request.

4 SHOPS AND OFFICES.—No complaints were received and no infringements found in shops and offices.

5 CAMPING SITES.—No area in the Borough is licensed for a camping site and no applications were received with regard to same during the year.

6 SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No complaints were made with regard to smoke and no nuisances were observed.

7 SWIMMING BATHS.—No works of any importance were carried out at the swimming bath; as is usual, the pool was emptied and thoroughly cleansed before opening. The changing of the water, as in previous years, remains the same, the stream flowing from the main River Great Ouse through the baths to a backwater.

The season was favourable and the attendance larger than usual.

8 ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.—One cottage was found to be infested and disinfestation was carried out by means of spraying and fumigation.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) **MILK SUPPLY.**—The cowsheds and dairies in the district number 5, which have been maintained in a satisfactory manner. A large proportion of the Milk which is retailed in the Borough is produced in the St. Ives Rural District Area.

(b) **MEAT.**—The Borough Slaughterhouse is still in the occupation of the Ministry of Food and the examination of the meat is carried out by officials who are under the jurisdiction of the County Council.

No private slaughterhouses in the Borough were used for the slaughtering of animals during the year.

(c) **BAKEHOUSES.**—The registered bakehouses in the area, which number 3, have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	9	11	2	Nil
(2) Section 7	20	23	1	Nil
Total	29	34	3	Nil

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections.

Defect	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	2
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	1	1	—	1
Other Offences	1	1	—	—
Total	4	4	—	3

The factories in general were maintained in a satisfactory manner. No nuisances of a serious nature were found during the year, minor defects which were reported by the District Factory Inspector were remedied.



## HOUSING

1	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—	
	(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	169
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	186
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ..	54
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	61
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	1
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	58
2	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of its Officers ... ..	63
3	Action under Statutory powers during the year:—	
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By Owners ... ..	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
	(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	0
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By Owners ... ..	0
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	0

	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	0
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	1
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	0
4	Housing Act, 1936—Part iv.—Overcrowding:—	
(a)	(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ..	1
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	2
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	10
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	0
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ..	0
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	0
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ..	0
(e)	The overcrowding situation in the district still remains a problem but is gradually being overcome by the provision of new houses.	
	The Council completed 18 houses during the year and 32 others were under construction at the end of the year.	

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

There were notifications of the following:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	0
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	122
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	2

IMMUNIZATION against Diphtheria during 1946:—

Completion of course, children under 5	...	...	38
"      "      "      "      over 5 and under 15			2
			—
Total			40

Total number of children given a secondary rein-							
forcing injection	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIOD				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-pul.		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
FOR THE AREA

There has been no change in the Laboratory facilities, Nursing in the Home and the Isolation Hospital all of which are working satisfactorily.

In additon the St. John and Red Cross were able to start a Town Ambulance service of its own which is able to take patients under doctor's certificate anywhere in England free for subscribers of a small yearly subscription and at a charge of 1s. per mile for non-subscribers. This has been very useful for cases where a short notice can be given. For immediate use in road accidents, etc., the County Ambulance gives a perfectly satisfactory and good service.

